Hist 3730
History of Western Canada
Fall/Winter 2012-2013

Instructor: George Buri
Room: 114 St John’s (Fall Term) 236 Isbister (Winter Term)
Time: Tuesday / Thursday 2:30-3:45

Required Books: Sarah Carter, *The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada to 1915*
Stephen Endicott, *Bienfait: The Saskatchewan Miners Struggle of ’31*
Royden Loewen, *Family, Church, and Market: A Mennonite Community in the Old and the New Worlds, 1850-1930*
Adele Perry, *At the Edge of Empire: Gender, Race, and the Making of British Columbia, 1849-1871*

Note: A number of shorter articles will be required reading and will be made available to students electronically.

Office Hours: I will be in my office (FA 406) Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30. Please feel free to drop by to discuss assignments etc. If this is not convenient we can set up another time to meet or you can e-mail me at georgeburi@gmail.com.

Objectives: This course explores Western Canada from the beginning until the present day. The following themes will be explored: Aboriginal life before contact, the fur trade, colonization, the Metis and Red River Settlement, the Red River and Northwest Rebellions, the Indian Act and Treaty-making process, pioneer settlement and farm communities, urbanization, immigration, politics and political protest, organized labor, gender relations, the new west and regionalism. This is primarily a seminar course. Each week, half the time will be devoted to lecture and the other half to seminar discussions based upon required readings. It is important that students come to class prepared to discuss the reading(s) in question. A number of assignments will also be based upon these readings.

Assignments:
1. Book Review = 15% (see outline for due dates)
2. Historical Debate Essay = 15% (see outline for due dates)
3. Research Essay = 20% (Due Feb. 7)
4. Public History Assignment = 10% (Due Dec. 4)
5. Class Participation = 10%
6. Final Exam = 30%

Book Review: You must review one of the four books assigned as compulsory reading for this course. In the review you are expected to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the book as a work of history and evaluate its contribution to its field. The book review should be 5-6 pages (1250-1500 words) in length. It is due the day we discuss the book in class.

Historical Debate Essay: You must choose one of three provided topics and write a 6-8 page (1500-2000 word) argumentative essay. Each of the three topics represents a debate in the field of Western Canadian history. You are expected to familiarize yourself with all sides of the
debate and weigh in with your own interpretation. The topics and suggested readings for this paper will be provided on a separate handout. This essay is due the day we discuss the debate in class.

**Public History Assignment:** In a short essay (5-6 pages) you are to critically evaluate a public history exhibit and discuss how and why the inclusions, exclusions and interpretations presented therein differ from academic history produced on the same topic. How is the history we encounter in a museum different than what we encounter in the classroom or in a monograph? A class trip to the Manitoba Museum will most likely serve to provide an opportunity for encountering a public history exhibit but you may choose another source if you desire.

**Research Essay:** The research essay is to be 8-10 pages (2000-2500 words) in length and on a topic of the student's own choice. A more detailed essay writing guide as well as a list of potential topics will be provided on a separate handout.

**Final Exam:** The exam will consist of two essay questions in which you will be required to develop and argue a thesis using the information learned in this course. A list of potential essay questions will be distributed prior to exam. Exam questions will be based both upon lectures and required readings.

**Class Participation:** This mark will be based upon both the quality and quantity of participation in class discussions on days when we have a seminar scheduled. Students will be expected to attend days marked as seminars having read the required selections and prepared to participate in a discussion about them. All readings can be found in electronic form on the ANGEL site for this course.

**Regarding Plagiarism:** The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC)) (for Disciplinary Action)) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

**Marking:** Letter grades correspond to number grades as follows:

- A+ = 90-100
- A = 80-89
- B+ = 75-79
- B = 70-74
- C+ = 65-69
- C = 60-64
- D = 50-59
- F = below 50

Keep in mind that the goal of this course should be to improve your skills, NOT to achieve any specific grade. Thus, my comments on your assignments are far more important than the specific grade given. Please read comments carefully as I have put significant thought into them.
Late policy: For Essays you will lose 5% for every day that your essay is late. All assignments must be submitted in hard copy. Deadlines are flexible if you ask for an extension IN ADVANCE (the farther in advance the better). If you are experiencing problems with the workload in this or a combination of courses please come to see me and we can work something out. Please come see me beforehand rather than not handing anything in and then coming to see me afterward.

Appeals: Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

Uncollected term work will become property of the faculty of arts and will be subject to confidential destruction

NOTE: The Voluntary Withdrawal Date: is March 20 and evaluation of term work will be provided before then

Class Schedule:
Course Readings are available on ANGEL from the University Website

Sep. 6: Introduction to Course

Week 1: Pre-Contact Life
Sep. 11: Lecture - Pre Contact West
Sep. 13: Seminar: First Nations World View
  “Mapping Inuktut: Inuit Views of the Real World”, Renee Fossett

Week 2: First European Contact
Sep. 18: Lecture: First Contacts and First Impressions
Sep. 20: Seminar: Judging first encounters
  “Captain cook and the Spaces of Contact at 'Nootka Sound”’, Daniel Clayton

Week 3: The Fur Trade
Sep. 25: Lecture: The Fur Trade, Origins and early days
Sep. 27: Film: Empire of the Bay

Week 4: The Fur Trade (continued)
Oct. 2: Lecture: The Selkirk Settlement and HBC
Oct. 4: Seminar: The Metis and Fur Trade Society
  “From "Marrying-In" to "Marrying-Out": Changing Patterns of Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Marriage in Colonial Canada”, Sylvia Van Kirk
Week 5: The Metis: political awakening and Red River Rebellion
Oct. 9: Lecture: The Red River Rebellion
Oct. 11: Seminar: The Red River Community and the Roots of the Rebellion
  Irene Spry, “The Metis and Mixed Bloods of Rupert’s Land Before 1870”
  Frits Pannekoek, “The Anglican Church and the Disintegration of Red River Society, 1818-1870”

Week 6: The Metis: Dispersal and Northwest Rebellion
Oct. 16: The Northwest Rebellion
Oct. 18: Seminar: Metis Dispersal (Paper Due)

Week 7: British Columbia in the colonial era
Oct. 23: Lecture: BC to 1870
Oct. 25: Seminar: On the Edge of Empire (book review due)

Week 8: The Treaty-Making Process and Indian Act
Oct. 30: Lecture: The Numbered Treaties and Indian Act
Nov. 1: Seminar: Treaty Making and Agency
  “Owen Glendower, Hotspur and Canadian Indian Policy”, J. R. Miller
  “Desperately Seeking Absolution: Native Agency as Colonialist Alibi?”, Robin Brownlie and Mary-Ellen Kelm

Week 9: The CPR, RCMP and White Settlement
Nov. 6: Lecture: Settling the Prairies, promoting settlement
Nov. 8: Seminar: White visions of the West
  “Categories and terrains of Exclusion: Construction the 'Indian Woman' in the Early Settlement Era in Western Canada”
  The Promise of Eden, Doug Owram (selection)

Week 10: Public History: The Manitoba Museum
Nov. 13: Field Trip - The Manitoba Museum
Nov. 15: Seminar: The Manitoba Museum

Week 11: Immigration 1870 to 1914
Nov. 20: Lecture: Immigration and Immigrant Experience
Nov. 22: Seminar - Family Church and Market (Book Review Due)

Week 12: Aboriginal Peoples and Colonialism to the 20th Century
Nov. 27: Lecture: Attempts at Assimilation
Nov. 29: Seminar: Colonialism and its impact
  “Constructed and Contested Truths: Aboriginal Suicide, Law, and Colonialism in the Canadian West(s), 1823-1927”, Lesley Erickson
  “Aboriginal Education at the Crossroads: The Legacy of Residential Schools and the Way Ahead”, Jean Barman

Dec. 4: Review and Catch up class
Public History Assignment Due
Second Term:

Week 13: Manitoba Schools Question and Anglo-Conformity
Jan. 8: Lecture: The Manitoba Schools Question
Jan. 10: Seminar: The Importance of Being Monogamous (Book Review Due)

Week 14: Urbanization and Working Class Life
Jan. 15: Lecture: Urban Life in the early 20th Century
Jan. 17: Seminar: Visions of the City
   “The City Yes, The City No: Perfection by Design in the Western City”, Anthony W. Rasporich

Week 15: The Winnipeg General Strike
Jan. 22: Lecture: The Postwar Labor Revolt
Jan. 24: Seminar: Winnipeg General Strike (Paper Due)

Week 16: The Progressive Movement and Farmer Activism
Jan. 29: Lecture: Farmer Political Activism
Jan. 31: Film: Paper Wheat

Week 17: The Great Depression: Dust Bowl
Feb. 5: Lecture: The Depression
Feb. 7: Film: The Flatlanders
Research Essay Due

Week 18: Great Depression: Politics
Feb. 12: Lecture: The CCF, and Social Credit
Feb. 14: Seminar: Bienfait (Review Due Today)

Feb. 18-22 NO CLASS MID-TERM BREAK

Week 19: Postwar West: Politics
Feb. 26: Lecture: Postwar Political Consensus
Feb. 28: Seminar: The CCF's Political Legacy
   CCF Colonialism in Northern Saskatchewan, Quiring, David M (selection)

Week 20: Postwar West: Economic and Society
Mar. 5: Lecture: Postwar West
Mar. 7: Seminar: Leisure and Recreation in the Early 20th Century
   Winnipeg Beach: Leisure and Courtship in a Resort Town, Dale Barbour (selection)
   “Managing the Marginal: Regulating and Negotiating Decency in Vancouver's Beer Parlours, 1925-1954”, Robert A. Campbell

Week 21: Modern Aboriginal Rights Movement
Mar. 12: Lecture: Aboriginal Activism
Mar. 14: Seminar: Land Claims
   “Oil and Lubicons Don't Mix: A Land Claim in Northern Alberta in Historical Perspective”, Darlene Abreu Ferreira
Week 22: Regionalism and Western Alienation
Mar. 21: Seminar: Western Alienation (Paper Due)

Week 23: The Idea of the West
Mar. 26: Lecture: Images of West in Popular Imagination
Mar. 28: Seminar: Artists and Visions of Western Canada
  “Changing Images of the West”, R. Douglas Francis
  “The Artist’s Eye: Modernist and Postmodernist Visualizations of the Prairie West”,
  George Melnyk

Week 24: Into the 21st Century: Does Region Matter?
Apr. 2: Lecture: Western Canada Since the 1970s
Apr. 4: Seminar: Western History in a Global Context
  “Spectacular Striptease: Performing the Sexual and Racial Other in Vancouver, B.C.,
  1945-1975”, Becki L. Ross
  “This Little Piggy Went to the Prairies: Growth and Opposition to the Prairie Hog
  Industry,” Michael J. Broadway

Apr. 9: End of year Review